FINAL
DECISION DOCUMENT FOR THE
DRAIN FIELD (BUILDING T-459), PARCEL 236(Q)
FORT McCLELLAN, CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA

ISSUED BY: THE U. S. ARMY

MARCH 2001

U.S. ARMY ANNOUNCES DECISION DOCUMENT

This Decision Document presents the determination that no further remedial action will be necessary to protect human health and the environment at the Drain Field (Building T-459), Parcel 236(Q), at Fort McClellan (FTMC) in Calhoun County, Alabama. The location of the parcel at FTMC is shown on Figure 1. In addition, this Decision Document provides the site background information used as the basis for the no further action decision.

This Decision Document is issued by the U.S. Army Garrison at FTMC with involvement by the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Cleanup Team (BCT). The BCT consists of representatives from the U.S. Army, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region IV, and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. The BCT is responsible for planning and implementing environmental investigations at FTMC.

Based on the results of the site investigation (SI) completed at the Drain Field (Building T-459), Parcel 236(Q), the U.S. Army will implement no further action at the site. This decision was made by the U.S. Army with concurrence by the BCT.

This Decision Document summarizes site information presented in detail in background documents that are part of the administrative record for the Drain Field (Building T-459), Parcel 236(Q). A list of background documents for Parcel 236(Q) is presented on Page 2. A copy of the administrative record for Parcel 236(Q) is available at the public repositories listed on Page 3.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING SITE

FTMC is undergoing closure by the BRAC Commission under Public Laws 100-526 and 101-510. The 1990 Base Closure Act, Public Law 101-510, established the process by which U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) installations would be closed or realigned. The BRAC Environmental Restoration Program requires investigation and cleanup of federal properties prior to transfer to the public domain. In addition, the Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act (CERFA) (Public Law 102-426) requires federal agencies to identify real property on military installations scheduled for closure that can be transferred to the public for redevelopment or reuse. Consequently, the U.S. Army is conducting environmental studies of the impact of suspected contaminants at parcels at FTMC. The BRAC Environmental Restoration Program at FTMC follows the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process.

SITE BACKGROUND

FTMC is located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains of northeastern Alabama near the cities of Anniston and Weaver in Calhoun County. FTMC comprises two main areas of government-owned properties: the Main Post and Pelham Range. Until May 1998, the FTMC installation also included the Choccolocco Corridor, a 4,488-acre tract of land that was leased from the State of Alabama. The Main Post, which occupies 18,929 acres, is bounded on the east by the Choccolocco Corridor, which previously connected the Main Post with the Talladega National Forest. Pelham Range, which

PRIMARY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR PARCEL 236(Q)

Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. (ESE), 1998, ***Final Environmental Baseline Survey, Fort McClellan, Alabama***, prepared for U.S. Army Environmental Center, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, January.

IT Corporation (IT), 2001, ***Final Site Investigation Report, Drain Field (Building T-459), Parcel 236(Q), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama***, March.

IT Corporation (IT), 2000, ***Final Human Health and Ecological Screening Values and PAH Background Summary Report, Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama***, July.

IT Corporation (IT), 1998, ***Final Site-Specific Field Sampling Plan for the Drain Field (Building T-459), Parcel 236(Q) Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama,*** December.

Science Applications International Corporation, 1998, ***Final Background Metals Survey Report, Fort McClellan, Alabama,*** July.

occupies 22,245 acres, is located approximately 5 miles due west of the Main Post and adjoins the Anniston Army Depot on the southwest.

The Drain Field (Building T-459), Parcel 236(Q), is located in the northern portion of the Main Post, south of the eastern end of Reilly Airfield (Figure 1). The site is a septic system with a drain field, located between former Building T-459 and 10th Street. A concrete building foundation, believed to be the remains of Building T-459, was observed east of the site. The septic system, which is believed to have been constructed in the 1940s, received domestic sewage from Buildings T-407 (classrooms), T-406 (latrine), and associated buildings (T-449, T-451, T-452, T-461, and T-459). The parcel encompasses approximately 1.5 acres and is densely covered with trees and groundcover. Because of the dense foliage, the drain field and septic tank location reported in the environmental baseline survey (EBS) (Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. [ESE], 1998) could not be determined during an IT Corporation (IT) site visit. An unimproved and a cleared area (approximately 1 acre) are in the center of the area designated as the location of the septic system. Major surface drainage features were not observed at the site. Ground surface slopes to the west-southwest toward 10th Street.

SCOPE AND ROLE OF PARCEL

Information developed from the EBS (ESE, 1998) was used to group areas at FTMC into standardized parcel categories using DOD guidance. All parcels received a parcel designation for one of seven CERFA categories, or a non-CERCLA qualifier designation, as appropriate. The seven CERFA categories include CERFA Uncontaminated Parcels (Categories 1 and 2), CERFA Contaminated Parcels (Categories 3 through 7), and CERFA Qualified Parcels. The Drain Field (Building T-459), Parcel 236(Q), was identified as a Category 1 Qualified Parcel in the EBS (ESE, 1998). Category 1 parcels are areas where no storage, release, or disposal (including migration) has occurred. With the issuance of this Decision Document, the Drain Field (Building T-459), Parcel 236(Q), will remain a CERFA Category 1 parcel.

SITE INVESTIGATION

An SI was conducted at the Drain Field (Building T-459), Parcel 236(Q), to determine whether chemical constituents are present at the site at concentrations that would present an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment (IT, 2001).

PUBLIC INFORMATION REPOSITORIES
FOR FORT McCLELLAN

Anniston Calhoun County Public Library
Reference Section
Anniston, Alabama 36201
Point of Contact: Ms. Sunny Addison
Telephone: (256) 237-8501
Fax: (256) 238-0474
Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Houston Cole Library
9th Floor
Jacksonville State University
700 Pelham Rd.
Jacksonville, Alabama 36265
Point of Contact: Ms. Rita Smith (256) 782-5249
Hours of Operation: Monday – Thursday 7:30 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.
Friday 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 3:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Two surface soil samples, two subsurface soil samples, and two groundwater samples were collected at the site. Surface soil samples were collected from the upper 1 foot of soil; subsurface soil samples were collected at depths greater than 1 foot below ground surface. Groundwater samples were collected from two temporary monitoring wells installed at the site during the SI. Samples were analyzed for target analyte list metals, target compound list volatile organic compounds (VOC), target compound list semivolatile organic compounds (SVOC), pesticides/herbicides, and polychlorinated biphenyls.

To evaluate whether detected constituents present an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment, the analytical results were compared to human health site-specific screening levels (SSSL) and ecological screening values (ESV) for FTMC (IT, 2000). The SSSLs and ESVs were developed as part of human health and ecological risk evaluations associated with SIs being performed under the BRAC Environmental Restoration Program at FTMC. Additionally, metal concentrations exceeding SSSLs and ESVs were compared to media-specific background screening values (Science Applications International Corporation [SAIC],1998). The potential threat to human receptors is expected to be low. Although the site is projected for industrial reuse, the analytical data were screened against residential human health SSSLs to evaluate the site for possible unrestricted future land use. In soils, with the exception of iron in one subsurface soil sample, the metals concentrations that exceeded SSSLs were below their respective background concentration or within the range of background values determined by SAIC (1998). VOC and SVOC concentrations in soils were below SSSLs.

In groundwater, several metals were detected at concentrations exceeding SSSLs and background concentrations. However, both of the groundwater samples had high turbidity at the time of sample collection, which caused the

elevated metals results.

The potential threat to ecological receptors is also expected to be minimal. With the exception of selenium in one of the surface soil samples, the metals concentrations that exceeded ESVs were below their respective background concentration or within the range of background values. VOC and SVOC concentrations in site media were below ESVs. Based on the low levels of metals and chemical compounds detected, the potential threat to ecological receptors is very low.

SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Remedial actions were not conducted at the Drain Field (Building T-459), Parcel 236(Q).

DESCRIPTION OF NO FURTHER ACTION

Remedial alternatives were not developed for the Drain Field (Building T-459), Parcel 236(Q). No further action is selected because remedial action is unnecessary to protect human health or the environment at this site. The metals and chemical compounds detected in site media do not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. Therefore, the site is released for unrestricted land reuse. Furthermore, the Drain Field (Building T-459), Parcel 236(Q), will remain a CERFA Category 1 Parcel. Category 1 parcels are areas where no storage, release, or disposal of hazardous substance or petroleum products has occurred (including no migration of these substances from adjacent areas). The U.S. Army will not take any further action to investigate, remediate, or monitor the Drain Field (Building T-459), Parcel 236(Q).

The following costs are associated with implementing the no-action alternative:

Capital Cost:	$0
Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs:	$0
Present Worth Cost:	$0
Months to Implement:	None
Remedial Duration:	None.

DECLARATION

Remedial action is unnecessary at the Drain Field (Building T-459), Parcel 236(Q). The no further action remedy protects human health and the environment, complies with federal and state regulations that are legally applicable or relevant and appropriate, and is a cost-effective application of public funds. This remedy will not leave in place hazardous substances at concentrations that require limiting the future use of the parcel or that require land-use control restrictions. The site is released for unrestricted land reuse. The Drain Field (Building T-459), Parcel 236(Q), will remain a CERFA Category 1 Parcel. Category 1 parcels are areas where no storage, release, or disposal of hazardous substances or petroleum products has occurred (including no migration of these substances from adjacent areas). There will not be any further remedial costs associated with implementing no further action at the Drain Field (Building T-459), Parcel 236(Q).

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Any questions or comments concerning this Decision Document or other documents in the administrative record can be directed to:

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ACRONYMS

BCT	BRAC Cleanup Team
BRAC	Base Realignment and Closure
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CERFA	Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act
DOD	U.S. Department of Defense
EBS	Environmental Baseline Survey
ESE	Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc.
ESV	ecological screening value
FTMC	Fort McClellan
IT	IT Corporation
SI	site investigation
SSSL	site-specific screening level
SVOC	semivolatile organic compound
VOC	volatile organic compound

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